

***Hydrocotyle ranunculoides* L.f.**

floating water pennywort
Apiaceae (Carrot Family)

Status: State Sensitive

Rank: G5S2

General Description: Adapted from Hitchcock et al. (1961): This glabrous perennial plant has floating or creeping stems. The petioles are weak and elongated, and mostly 2 to 14 in. (5-35.5 cm) long. The leaf blades are roundly kidney-shaped, with an evident basal depression between two lobes, not flat, mostly 1/8 to 2 1/8 in. (1-6 cm) wide, and with 5 to 6 deep lobes almost to the middle. The lobes have a few broad teeth, or are further subdivided into little rounded lobes. The stalks bearing the solitary inflorescences are 1/8 to 2 in. (1-5 cm) long (much shorter than the leaf stalks) with inflorescences arising at the very tips of the stalks. The inflorescence is a simple umbel (flowers that are borne on flower stalks which arise from the same point) with 5 to 10 flowers.

Identification Tips: *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides* is the only species of its genus known to occur in Washington.

Phenology: This species is identifiable throughout the year.

Range: This species is known from eastern North America and in western North America from Washington to California and Arizona. In Washington, the taxon has been found in Grays Harbor, Pacific, Cowlitz, Wahkiakum, Thurston, Kitsap, Pierce, and King counties.

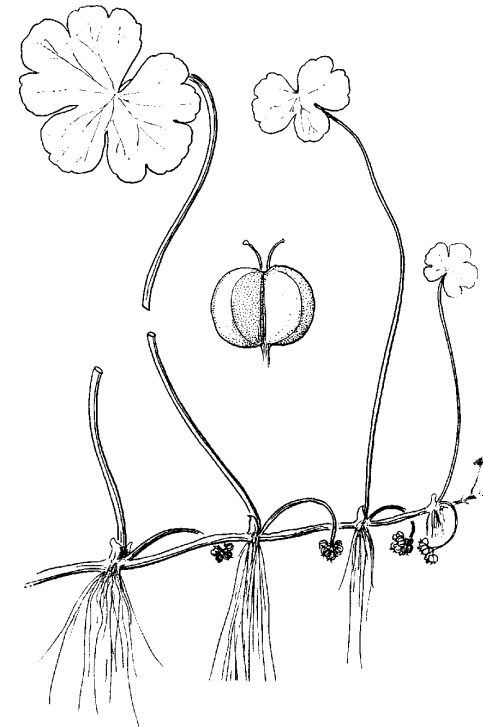
Habitat: This species is found submerged and floating in shallow freshwater (lakes, ponds, ditches, and swamps), generally on muddy (or sometimes sandy) substrates, from 10 to 512 feet (3-156 m) in elevation. Associated species at one or more sites include: reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), spatter dock (*Nuphar polysepalum*), spirea (*Spiraea douglasii*), bay forget-me-not (*Myosotis laxa*), and purple marshlocks (*Potentilla palustris*).

Ecology: In Washington this species is sometimes found in recently formed wetlands along the coast.

State Status Comments: There are less than fifteen recent records of *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides* in Washington.

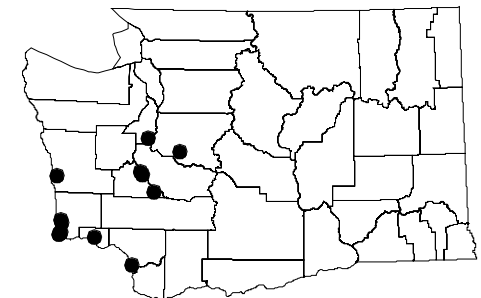
Hydrocotyle ranunculoides

Floating water pennywort



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Known distribution of
Hydrocotyle
ranunculoides
in Washington



● Current (1980+)
○ Historic (older than 1980)

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Scott Moore



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Inventory Needs: Wetlands in coastal Washington and southwest Washington should be surveyed for this species.

Threats and Management Concerns: Populations occurring on private lakes may be susceptible to herbicides applied by residents attempting to control invasive species, and high traffic disturbance from water activities. Populations are also threatened by invasive species such as reed canary grass and purple loosestrife, as well as by changes in hydrology.

References:

Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, J.W. Thompson. 1961. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest Part 3: Saxifragaceae to Ericaceae*. University of Washington Press, Seattle, WA. 614 pp